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the General Alarm

Feb 2013

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

Black History Parade

RFD apparatus and personnel participated in the annual Black History Parade on Feb 9. City officials, including council members and committee members, rode on fire apparatus.



Top left (clockwise): Councilpersons Steve Adams and Ken Gutierrez; Cpt Robert Leaphart, Councilperson Mike Gardner; Eng Frank Smith; Cpt Thomas Jay, and FF Chad Selk; Councilpersons Andy Melendrez, Chris MacArthur, Paul Davis, Nancy Hart, and FF/PM Hector Calvillo.



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Email from Wendy DeBoer, Grand Neighborhood Alliance (GNA) Chair, on March 2: Dear GNA members and friends, Now that the dust, ashes and soot have settled, it seems like a good time to give thanks to everyone who helped to keep the Grand neighborhood area safe during this latest fire. I woke up at 2:00 a.m. Saturday morning to let the dog out and could still see firefighters scattered throughout the river bottom, putting out small fires and keeping an eye out for trouble spots. I suspect they will be out there in some way, shape or form throughout next week. So, first and foremost, thanks to the Riverside Fire Department and the other regional fire departments who assisted in getting control of and putting out this beast of a fire. I've attached some photos to show what a difficult job they had and how indebted those of us most impacted by the Santa Ana River fires are to their efforts. These guys and gals are amazing. Just amazing. From our backyard, they confronted a wall of fire and never flinched.

It wasn't until we were so impacted by fires that I learned how dangerous it can be with "lookie loos" and people with not so good intentions roaming the neighborhoods as soon as fires start. Things get really, really crazy and I am very grateful to the Riverside Police Department for keeping our neighborhoods safe and managing the madness that surrounds big fires like these.

I have to say thank you to all of the residents in the Grand neighborhood who picked up hoses, checked on their neighbors, called 911 to keep RFD and RPD informed about what was going on, and helped in evacuations. I have heard lots of stories about neighbors working together to put out fires and keep their neighborhoods safe and standing. Thank you!

There's never been a fire where Councilman Mike Gardner hasn't been on scene, during and after. Even when his own home is impacted, he is here checking on our neighborhoods. When I evacuated with our girls, he called to let me know how my husband and house were doing. Much appreciated! Final thanks to Janice Bielman of the Magnolia Area Neighborhood Alliance and Justin Scott Coe of the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership and Wood Streets Green Team for their very neighborly support of our area during this time.



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Feb 2013

Birthdays



Upcoming Events

March Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Shawn Bauer | 3/23 |
| Marciano Duran | 3/29 |
| Brad Fike | 3/17 |
| LaWayne Hearn | 3/4 |
| Robert Herrick | 3/20 |
| Wayne Hess | 3/9 |
| Steve Hill | 3/27 |
| Trey Janeway | 3/21 |
| David Juarez | 3/28 |
| Bart Kennedy | 3/26 |
| Tom Kleveno | 3/25 |
| Ray Mendoza | 3/3 |
| Pat Mullen | 3/5 |
| Rod Nash | 3/23 |
| Jesse Norton | 3/17 |
| Dru Odil | 3/4 |
| Gina Perez | 3/20 |
| Kyle Phillips | 3/27 |
| Joe Reed | 3/13 |
| Scott Richmond | 3/16 |
| Garen Roehl | 3/30 |
| Joe Rosales | 3/3 |
| Jeff Rowe | 3/12 |
| Mike Weatherbie | 3/22 |
| Mitch Wesche | 3/25 |

2013 Retirement Party

March 23, 2013

Riverside Downtown Marriott

Host Bar/Reception @ 5pm

Dinner @ 6pm

For information, contact

Dmuchmore@riversideca.gov

2013 Promotional Ceremony

April 5, 2013

Riverside Municipal Auditorium

on Mission Inn

Ceremony begins @ 6pm



New Decontamination Apparatus

The Riverside City FD accepted its new tactical CBRN decon unit on Feb 15. The new apparatus will be located at Station 2 as part of the hazardous materials team response. The vehicle was purchased with UASI grant funds. A huge thanks to Captain Mike Staley working with Gale Schulte and Steve Bradshaw to acquire this valuable asset for our department. All crews will receive an orientation on the unit in the upcoming FRO training.

Congratulations

Feb 2013

New Hires:

| | | | |
|---|----|---|-------------------|
| Firefighter Garry Lingafelter | 14 | C | January 18, 2013 |
| Firefighter/Paramedic Jonathan Trujillo | 1 | C | January 18, 2013 |
| Firefighter/Paramedic Alex Austin | 8 | A | January 18, 2013 |
| Firefighter/Paramedic Jonathan Tilton | 13 | C | January 18, 2013 |
| Firefighter Dominic Mistretta | 7 | A | January 18, 2013 |
| Firefighter Mark Powell | 11 | A | February 1, 2013 |
| Firefighter Andrew Hegg | 6 | B | February 1, 2013 |
| Firefighter Jason Roehl | 7 | B | February 15, 2013 |
| Firefighter Michael Smith | 14 | A | February 15, 2013 |
| Firefighter/Paramedic David Nelson | 10 | C | February 15, 2013 |



Photos: (Left) Chuck Clements, New FF Michael Smith, Captain Steve Jeremiah, and Engineer Carl Colby. (Right) FF Smith receives his badge and welcome from Deputy Chief Mike Esparza



12 Month Probation: Zach Pettikas

Engine Certification: Jeremy Roberts

Promotions to Battalion Chief: Effective March 15, Captains Dave Bakas and Tony Perna will promote to Battalion Chief 2A and 2C respectively.

Assignments: Effective March 15, Battalion Chief Mitch Wesche will be assigned as the Division Chief in Training and Battalion Chief LaWayne Hearn will be the USAR Division Chief. Captain Robert Abbruzzese has been assigned as an a shift investigator.

Retirements: Retired Fire Engineer Frank Sydow has retired again! He is stepping down as the Senior Advisor for Fire Explorer Post 101. He has donated hundreds if not thousands of hours to the fire explorer program. Frank will be recognized at the upcoming RCFA 1067 retirement dinner.

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More Mail...

Feb 2013

Email from Retired Fire Buff Jim Weaver to Mike Esparza on Feb 8: Hi to all our family members and friends. It's been awhile since I have given an update on Donna's health. We got some good news last week regarding the diabetes and tumor. Diabetes is pretty much under control. In fact using very little insulin except the Lantus at night. The IGH1 (insulin like growth hormone) is now down to normal in the 5 to 7 range from 800 a few months ago. The other news is regarding kidneys. She has been diagnosed with kidney failure stage late 3 or early 4, depending on whose standard you use. She is with a nephrologist now, and he is suggesting we prepare for dialysis because she will probably need it in the not too distant future. We still plan on some travel this summer and the doctors have not indicated any problem with that.

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

Email from Fire Chief Earley to Operations Personnel on March 4 regarding Feb 28 Jurupa Valley Fire: Operations, I would like to pass along my appreciation and thanks for all the hard work that was displayed in controlling and extinguishing this difficult and challenging fire. We are truly a very professional organization! I would also like to share some comments I received back from some of our Council Members.

Councilman Gutierrez: Steve - thanks for the update-and thanks to all the firefighters for their extraordinary response! It is comforting to know we are in good hands. Our prayers for their safety are abundant.

Councilman Adams: Steve our prayers go out to all the amazing Firefighters both from the City of Riverside and Cal Fire. I want to add to our thanks to the men and women of our public utilities for their efforts to keep power to our residents and the Riverside Police for their work on this fire. We pray that all are protected from injury and that all are able to go home safely! My most sincere thanks to all,

Councilman MacArthur: Thanks Steve for the update. Great effort by all of our dedicated employees!



Left: Engine 2C crew prepares to be dropped off by Air1 as heli-tac crew. Right: View from roof of Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center as fire approaches.



Dispatcher Award by Patty Tambe, Interim Communications Manager

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Congratulations to Public Safety Dispatcher Tanya Richardson. Tanya has been selected as this year's California Public-Safety Radio Association (CPRA) Trainer of the Year. Tanya will be recognized during CPRA's 25th annual Telecommunicator Awards Banquet that will be held on April 18, 2013 at Knott's Berry Farm Resort Hotel.

Tanya has been with the RPD since December 21, 2001. She has been a Communications Training Officer (CTO) for the last 8 years. In 2012, Tanya was the CTO for two dispatchers during their Channel 1 radio dispatch phase. This is the most challenging and difficult phase for dispatch trainees. Both dispatchers successfully passed this 16-week training phase. Tanya also is a CTO for Channel 2 – Wants and Warrants and for phones. When she is not actively assigned to a trainee, she is always willing to step in and train to cover for vacations and illness.

Tanya is an outstanding, meticulous trainer a solid contributor to the CTO program. She has exceptional job knowledge and has an outstanding ability to share her knowledge with new employees. Tanya is an organized trainer who ensures that her trainees develop into well-rounded dispatchers who are always cautious of officer and citizen safety. Her trainee evaluations are completed on time, and they thoroughly document the daily accomplishments and areas noted for improvement. Tanya is always willing to go above and beyond to support her trainees, even well after they have completed the training program. Tanya's high level of performance and commitment to the Communications Training Program is deserving of the Communications Trainer of the Year Award. Congratulations to Tanya for her performance and commitment to the CTO program. This award is not only a great honor for Tanya, but it is also a great honor for the Communications Bureau to be represented in this awards ceremony.



The California Public Safety Radio Association (CPRA) presents awards annually in various categories. This year we submitted three nominations, one for Communications Trainer of the Year, Tanya Richardson, and two for Outstanding Performance by an Individual for a Police incident, Ati Peterson and Annamarie Megrdichian. Congratulations also go out to Ati and Annamarie. Even though you were not selected by CPRA, you are both winners in our organization and great dispatchers!!!

Load Planner Class

Feb 2013

CATF-6 was an affiliate sponsor for a Department of Defense Air Mobility Command Load Planners on Feb 4-15 at the March Air Force Base. Attendees included: US Navy Seabees and Divers, US Coast Guard, and USAR teams. CATF-6 members who attended were: Josh Fudge, Josh Tronaas, Carl Colby, Rob Gabler, and Mike Williams. Logisticians must re-certify every two years.



PHOTO ALBUM

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Feb 2013



Engine 6A crew demonstrates
building a ladder drain

TRAINING DIVISION TIMES

the General Alarm



Feb 2013

New hires attended a 3 day orientation/mini-academy Feb 25-27 at the Training Tower. Photos (L to R): New hires participated in "hands on" skills as well as classroom lecture. FF/PM Frank Robles lent a hand in his Class A uniform after completing his inside engineer's interview.



Below: Training Division Chief Mitch Wesche and Training Captains Bruce Vanderhorst and Tim Beeler completed forklift training. Beware!

